

# Mission Paraguay 2011



Registered Charity No: XR67448

Once again, this year we have been blessed through much answered prayer from our gracious God. Generous donations enabled us to fund the programme of work agreed with the Anglican Church in Paraguay almost a year earlier and there were sufficient volunteers from the UK and Ireland for the planned groups in Asunción and the Chaco.

During July one group of nine people was based at the church at Roque Alonso on the northern outskirts of Asunción. Their time was spent with communities where the Church is working in some of the poorest areas of Asunción. They also enjoyed five days at Concepción which is a six hour bus ride further north. This group brought specific skills to assist with the sewing workshops led by missionary Caroline Gilmour-White. These were initially started five years ago through Mission Paraguay funding in a number of different communities to encourage self sufficiency. It was particularly encouraging this year to see how the local women involved are beginning to developing their range of goods for sale. In these communities and in areas surrounding Concepción there were many opportunities for craft work and games with children including assisting with the toy library operated through FEISA the Anglican Early Years Teacher Training College which enables children with very few toys of their own to interact and learn through play. A number of building projects in the Asunción area, built with local labour, mainly to provide facilities for children and young people have been funded this year. Some of the group undertook redecoration work in diocesan



premises and building materials were supplied to enable members of the local churches to provide voluntary practical assistance to needy people in their locality. A total of over 800 pairs of spectacles sent from England and Ireland were distributed by a volunteer with ophthalmic knowledge. Some of these were given to Beryl Baker the resident nurse in the Chaco, for distribution in the Indian communities.

After a drive of approximately five hours along the TransChaco highway, the only road through the sparsely populated Chaco linking the capital, Asunción with Bolivia, you will reach the Anglican Centre at Rio Verde. During

August this was the base for ten Mission Paraguay volunteers who spent almost three weeks with missionary Chris Hawksbee gaining hands on experience assisting with projects to benefit local communities and helping them to become more self-sufficient. Many of the Enxet Indian people living in the scrubland of the Chaco, have simple homes constructed of split palm logs, corrugated metal and polythene sheeting. They have no electricity, piped water supply or sanitation. For the last few years Chris' ministry has included organising the building of new homes with adobe brick walls, a concrete floor and corrugated metal roof with guttering to collect rainwater, a valuable commodity in a region suffering prolonged annual drought. Through the generosity of our supporting churches and individuals this is one of the projects, funded by Mission Paraguay, which provides valuable work and income for families as well as allowing for direct involvement by the volunteers. Another of Mission Paraguay's priorities is to fund underground storage tanks for the collection of rainwater and as in past years, despite temperatures often in excess of 30°C, volunteers 'readily' assisted with the excavation work, with a spade (no JCB's available) for a new tank at Karanda.



Time was also spent accompanying missionary Rev. Ed Brice on visits to communities where he provides pastoral support and training for local church leaders. This year's visit coincided with the baptism of more than twenty people in the local pond and an Indian wedding in the church at Yatnata which some of the volunteers had helped to build in 2004. Other activities included sewing workshops and other craft activities, work with children and visits to schools in different areas of the Chaco.

Mission Paraguay is not just about building projects, it is about building relationships, changing lives and deepening commitment. Volunteers spend three weeks living, working and ministering together and meeting other Christians living in different cultural circumstances and, despite language difficulties, worshipping and praying together. By assisting the ministry of the local church and using the specific skills of the group members, the visitors are able to experience life in Paraguay and share the love of Jesus.

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to everyone who has supported our work through your prayers, donations and enthusiasm.

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# Mission Paraguay

## Projects funded during 2011

Working through



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### In Asunción:

- the completion of the construction of an additional floor on the multi purpose building erected in 2006 behind the church at Zeballos Cue. The new premises will be used for youth work. This development was begun last year and opened in September 2011;
- the construction of a toilet / shower block at San Lorenzo where in previous years a permanent building for work with children and young people was funded by Mission Paraguay on the land purchased in 2008. 40 chairs were also supplied;
- refurbishment and redecoration work at the Diocesan Offices. This includes improved kitchen and toilet facilities and redecoration of the accommodation used by Indian people from the Chaco when visiting Asunción;



- supplying materials for redecoration work at the Esperanza Foster Home;
- supplying consumable materials for work with children at Mirador;
- supplying materials for two projects carried out by members of the local churches to help people in need:



- small brick home for a family whose previous makeshift wooden home had recently been partially demolished in high winds and
- a toilet for an elderly woman living alone at Zeballos Cue;



- supplying toys for the mobile toy library operated by FEISA the Anglican Early Years Teacher Training College.

### In Concepción:

- the redecoration of part of the inside of St Pablo's Church;
- providing funds for work with children in Concepción and the surrounding area.



**In the Chaco:**

- the construction of a 21,000 litre underground storage cistern at Karanda to collect rainwater during the rainy season for use by families during the prolonged drought periods each year;



- the construction of storage / vestry rooms at the churches at Alegre and Dos Palmas;

- the construction of ten homes built of adobe bricks with sheet metal roofs and concrete floors to replace overcrowded homes built of palm logs, plastic sheets and other discarded materials. Families are also being supplied with a plastic drum to collect rainwater from gutters. It is planned to construct further homes and supply each home with a long drop toilet during 2012 as funds allow;



- building a long drop toilet at the diocesan buildings at Rio Verde;

- the relocation and rebuilding of a lockup store at Rio Verde for church and Mission Paraguay use;



- redecoration and repair work at the church at Makxawayaya;

- providing DVD teaching materials for use by missionaries;

- funding for eye surgery and other operations for people in the Chaco and supplying medical items for Nurse Baker who works in the Chaco;

**General items:**

- providing materials for the sewing workshops which have operated for the last four years in locations in Asunción, Concepción and at Rio Verde in the Chaco to encourage self sufficiency;



- distribution of over 800 pairs of spectacles to communities in Asunción and Concepción and to Nurse Beryl Baker for her distribution in the Chaco;

- supplying clothes, blankets, toys and other items for distribution to people in need. Some clothes are sold for a nominal sum to raise funds for work with children and to operate the Saturday meal for children in various communities.



**Thank you for your support**